



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Premises Registration

Q: *What is premises registration?*

A: The first component of NAIS is premises registration—an effort to establish an accurate, current record of all locations in the United States where livestock and/or poultry are raised, housed, or boarded.

Q: *What is a premises identification number (PIN)?*

A: A PIN is a nationally unique, 7-digit code that includes both letters and numbers. Similar to a rural 911 address used by first responders to pinpoint the location of an emergency, the PIN allows animal health officials to quickly location animals that may be affected by an animal disease event. Knowing where animals are actually located—rather than the mailing addresses of their owners—is the key to rapid, accurate, and cost-effective disease response.

Q: *Am I required to get a PIN?*

A: NAIS provides the opportunity for producers that are not part of a disease program to voluntarily participate in national health safeguarding efforts.

To standardize data, USDA is using NAIS data elements, including the PIN, for the administration of Federal disease programs. A PIN is not required if the animal at the premises is not in a federally-regulated disease program.

Individual States may choose to require PINs within their State, based on local needs.

Q: *What will it cost?*

A: Obtaining a PIN is free.

Q: *Why should I get a PIN?*

A: All livestock producers and animal owners are encouraged to obtain a PIN, regardless of the number of animals present, because animal diseases (such as avian influenza, foot-and-mouth disease, and vesicular stomatitis) can spread whether an animal leaves its home premises or not.

Q: *How do I get a PIN?*

A: The application process is quick and simple—it requires completing a short form with your contact information. The basic information you will be asked to provide includes:

- Name of entity
- Contact person for premises
- Street address, city, State, and Zip or postal code of the premises
- Contact phone number
- Operation type
- Species at premises
- Date activated
- Alternative phone numbers

Once the form is completed and the information is validated, you will be issued a nationally unique premises identification number, or PIN.

Premises registration forms are available from your State, Territorial, or Tribal NAIS Administrator and on department of agriculture Web sites in many States. To contact the NAIS Administrator in your area, click on the following link or cut and paste it into your Web browser:
http://animalid.aphis.usda.gov/nais/contact_us/directories.shtml

Q: *How will USDA and others use my PIN?*

A: Animal health officials can use premises information to quickly locate animals that have been exposed to a disease or may be at risk of exposure. This information allows them to better assess the circumstances, inform producers as necessary, take precise actions to address the situation, minimize hardships, and speed disease eradication efforts. Premises information can also be used to quickly define which regions of our country are not affected by an outbreak (regionalize or compartmentalize)—keeping markets open for unaffected producers and preventing unnecessary movement restrictions.

It is important to remember that individuals' private information and confidential business information are protected from disclosure by Federal law.

Additional Information

For more information about NAIS, contact:

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